

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 6, 7 and 9. These sheets, which include Figs. 6-9, replace the original sheets including Figs. 6-9. In particular, Figs. 6, 7 and 9 have been labeled “prior art.”

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (3)

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 23, 2005. Claims 1-4 are pending.

The drawings stand objected to in section 2 of the Office Action. In this respect, Figs. 6, 7 and 9 have been labeled "prior art" as suggested by the Examiner. However, Fig. 8 has not been so labeled. Fig. 8 is a comparison between an example embodiment of the invention and prior art, and thus it is not "prior art."

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tokumitsu in view of Hoopman. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Tokumitsu discloses a solid state image sensor including photodiodes 3, color filters 2, and microlenses 1. As shown in Figs. 3, 3A, 3B and 3C of Tokumitsu, the centers of the microlenses 1 are shifted by amounts d_a , d_b and d_c toward the periphery of the sensor. In Fig. 3A for example, the centers of the microlenses 1 are shifted toward the center of the sensor by amounts d_a and d_b moving toward the periphery of the sensor. However, *Tokumitsu does not disclose or suggest also changing the "size" of the microlenses moving away from the sensor center as called for in claim 1.* Recognizing the flaw in Tokumitsu, the Office Action cites to Hoopman.

Hoopman discloses a microlens array where the focal lengths of the microlenses in the array are shorter at the center of the array than at the periphery of the array. The Office Action then contends that it would have been obvious to have used the different focal lengths of Hoopman in the device of Tokumitsu.

In contrast with the cited art, claim 1 requires a *combination* of *both* (a) center offset and (b) larger size of the light-focusing parts moving toward the peripheral region. Both Tokumitsu

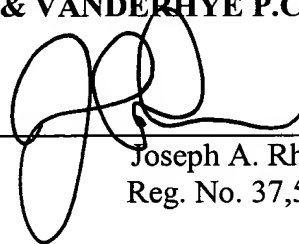
and Hoopman fail to disclose or suggest this *combination* of (a) and (b). Moreover, there is nothing in the art of record which would have caused one of ordinary skill in the art to have done *both* (a) and (b) in a particular device. Since Tokumitsu's lens centers have been shifted toward the periphery, there is no reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would have also increased the focal lengths of the lenses toward the periphery as alleged by the Office Action. The shifting of Tokumitsu's lenses alleviate any need to make such a change. There is simply no suggestion or motivation in the cited art for the combination of (a) and (b) as required by claim 1.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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